

Albany. The previous two specimens came from Karridale and Chorkerup, both in 1933. There is no doubt that a great decline in numbers of the Quokka occurred in the 1930s. However, the authors agree with White (1952) that isolated populations of the Quokka still occur on the mainland. This view has been supported by Sharman (1954); by the capture of an immature *Setonix* by Mr. J. Rate at Walpole in December, 1955; by a visual record of Mr. R. Aitkin who saw two dead Quokkas on the Albany Highway near the Travellers Arms on January 11, 1956, and on March 22, 1956.

This evidence indicates that close attention by naturalists to suitable undisturbed swamps in the forest areas would be likely to yield more information on the mainland occurrence. The authors and the Fisheries Department would be glad to learn of the success encountered by naturalists looking in suitable localities. However, it cannot be emphasised too strongly that undirected blundering through swamps in search of Quokkas will do more to hasten their extinction than any other factor.

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LITERATURE CITED

- SHARMAN, G. B. 1954—The relationships of the Quokka (*Setonix brachyurus*). *W.A. Nat.*, 4: 159-168.
WHITE, S. R. 1952—The occurrence of the Quokka in the South-West. *W.A. Nat.*, 3: 101-103.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Grey-tailed Tattler on the Swan River Estuary.—The Grey-tailed Tattler (*Tringa brevipes*) is a relatively common visitor to northern Australia. In the south of this State two of the three known records are from the Swan River Estuary (*Emu*, 31: 278; 47: 266). Last summer four birds were seen on the shores of Melville Water, near Como beach. One was noted on November 26, 1956, and three were seen on December 3.

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Glossy Ibis at Bibra Lake.—The Glossy Ibis (*Plagadis falcinellus*) occurs rarely in southern Australia and there are only about half a dozen published records for the South-West. It was with considerable interest, therefore, that I noted a single individual at Bibra Lake on November 26, 1956. The ibis was feeding on a grassy flat in company with 20-30 White-faced Herons. Through field glasses the sickle-shaped bill and greenish sheen on the plumage could be clearly seen. In flight the bird appears uniformly black and so cannot be confused with the Straw-necked Ibis, which shows prominent white markings when in the air.

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Kestrel at Sea in Northern Australia.—During May, 1957, I made a cruise in north-western and northern waters on H.M.A.S. *Fremantle*, as part of my national service training. On May 14, at